



newsounds

One of a Spoonful

By SCOTT HOLTZMAN

—John Sebastian, leader of the Lovin' Spoonful, son of a classical musician, author of "Daydream," "Do You Believe in Magic," "Younger Girls," "Did You Ever Have To Make Up Your Mind," and "Nashville Cats," John Sebastian, the young man who just scored two movies, even conducting the studio orchestra for one of them, lives, eats, breathes, and sleeps music.

It has paid off for him. He's one of the major trend setters in popular music today. The following comments, gathered during his recent Houston visit, will give you a little more insight into this bright young talent in our world of music today.

Q) John, many people are saying the "beat" and the British Sound are going out. Opinion?

A) Nothing is really finished. Nothing really dies or is born in music. It keeps changing and going back into itself. The same thing happens with soil. Like a weed or a plant grows and then it dies and all it does is spread itself out and then it pops up in other ways. That's the same thing that happens musically, too.

As far as the British thing, only the hypnotism is gone, only the fads. Only the stuff that didn't amount to any music is gone. It hasn't affected the Beatles or the Stones any.

A group with something to say isn't gonna be affected by a sudden disinterest in a fad.

Q) Who are your favorite writers?

A) Smokey Robinson, Holland Dozier, Lennon & McCartney, Dylan, a lot of Country and Western writers, Donovan . . . Donovan and Lee Dorsey . . . whoever wrote his last couple of records.

Q) Who are your favorite groups?

A) Of course the Beatles, Buck Owens & the Buckaroos, Martha & the Vandellas, There's Dr Feelgood & The

Newsounds Calendar

Christmas Week Special Nights
LIVING EYE: Wed—Neal Ford & Fanatics, The Fever Tree
Thurs—The Fever Tree, The Rev-dels
Fri—The Sixpenitz, The Fever Tree
Sat—The Fever Tree, The Choppers
CASA COMES: Wed & Thurs—The Herd, The Basic Things

New Year's Eve Shows
ASTRODOME PLAZA: The Playboys of Edinburg, The Coosliners, The Sixpenitz, 21 and older, \$15 per couple at door.

LIVING EYE: Neal Ford & Fanatics, The Fever Tree, 15 through 20, \$2.50 per person at door.

MUSIC HALL: Dec 28—The Sonny & Cher Show, KHJZ presents Noel Harrison, Bobby Roy, Coosliners, Neal Ford & Fanatics, Thursdays Children. Foley's, pre-show fashion show with The Glass Kars.

Interns, who are a South Carolina band . . . Pegram & Parham, a banjo and harmonica duet who haven't recorded in about 10 years, Jim Queskin and his Jug Baud from Cambridge. I like the Butterfield Blues Band, particularly Mike Bloomfield.

Q) What's your favorite song you've written?

A) Right now it's "Nashville Cats." That's only because you get bored with all the other tunes. You hear it on the radio for awhile and then it gets boring. "Nashville Cats" is the

story about me as a kid listening to music and some of the tunes I heard and what I dug about it.

Q) I understand you've worked with Lightnin' Hopkins, who is sort of a prophet without honor here in his own home town.

A) As a matter of fact, Lightnin' and I were living together in a horrible pad on the East Side for awhile. Is he here in Houston now? Oh, do you know what I forgot, man? Lightnin' lives in this town! He plays on the streets in this town, right? When he was in New York, all the time I'd just sit and listen to him talk about how he wanted to get back to Houston. He doesn't like travelling.

He's a great man. I hope Houston . . . uh . . . well, it's always so sad because it'll happen when he dies that suddenly people realize here we had a great artist just walking around the streets. You know Bartok starved to death in New York City.

I haven't seen Lightnin' now for about three years. We played together for a long time before I was in the group and he wanted to make an album with me on harmonica. Then he left and went back to Houston and I never heard from him again. You know . . . he may not even remember me.

I GAVE John Sebastian Lightnin's phone number and you would have thought I had LBJ's private line. John hasn't gotten so big that he's not impressed by true artists who play the kind of music he respects. John Sebastian is a pleasure to know.

I hope he continues to give the world happy "Good Time" music that makes all of our days a bit more pleasant. John was concerned that Lightnin' isn't a big star in Houston. His last comment was, "Tell them that we all want Houston to recognize Lightnin'! H o p k i n s!" How about it, Houston?